production of finished steel is 23.77 million tonnes.

(b) India is among the countries having low per capita consumption of steel. In the year 1992, the per capita apparent comsumption of crude steel in India was about 22 kg. as against the world average of 143 kg.

(c) Higher input prices, poor quality of raw materials, technological obsolescence, outdated operational practices, and higher incidence of taxes and levies are some of the factors inhibiting growth of steel industry in India. A larger number of overseas investros have shown interest in financing steel units in India.

Research and Development in Agriculture

2539. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for research and development in Agriculture in the country particularly in the State of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the details of the research being carried out in different institutes in the country during the current year 1995-96 alongwith achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Expenditure figures in respect of ICAR are not maintained state-wise. However, total expenditure during the last three years i.e. 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 are as under:-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Total
1992-93	355.46
1993-94	441.99
1994-95	480.90

(b) In the ICAR system, there are 88 Research Institutes / National Research Centres / Project Directorates / National Bureaus. The details of the research undertaken by them and the achievements thereon are contained in the Annual Reports of these Institutes.

Reservation in Promotions for OBCs

2540. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide reservation in promotions for Government employees belonging to OBCs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b) This item is under consideration.

This item would have to be discussed with political parties to arrive at consensus in the matter.

Identification of tree Species for Obtaining Biopesticides

2541. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Reasearch Institute in Dehradun have indentified a large number of tree species and strains of tree species from which biopesticides can be obtained;

(b) if so, the details thereof with benefits to be taken from biopesticides can be obtained;

(c) whether some other research institutes at Dehradun and Jabalpur have developed biological control measures for controlling Babul defoliator using dipterous parasite;

(d) if so, the details thereof with benefits from such research;

(e) whether Government propose to take some steps to ensure availability of benefits of such researches to the people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun has identified 55 tree species having potential for biopesticides. Out of these, five plant species viz. Neem (**Azadirachta indica**), **Haldu** (**Adina cordifolia**), Karanj (**Pongamia pinnata**), Bhekal (**Prinsepia utilis**) and **Delbergia stipulacea** have been identified as most important for obtaining biopesticides. Biopesticides are cost-effective, environment friendly and biodegradable.